News Release
Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

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Cochrane Young Entrepreneur Opens Legal-services Business - #940077

Provincial Funding Supports New Businesses By Youth In The North

SUDBURY – The McGuinty government is helping a Cochrane entrepreneur start a legal-services business through a program aimed at assisting young people who are creating full-time businesses in Northern Ontario, Northern Development and Mines Minister Rick Bartolucci announced today.

"Since we established the Young Entrepreneur Program in 2005, more than 64 business ventures have been started by young business people in the North," said Bartolucci, who also chairs the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC). "The fact that the number of well-thought-out applications is growing as more youth become aware of this program speaks well for the future of small business in Northern Ontario."

Cochrane and Area Legal Services is using a contribution of $25,000 from the NOHFC's Young Entrepreneur Program to renovate a home office and buy furnishings and equipment. In her new business Lorraine Viau will provide paralegal services to private clients and operate a collection agency.

"A good idea, solid business plan and hard work are essential ingredients for business people of any age to succeed," said Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP David Ramsay. "But young entrepreneurs in the North often need an extra element of financial support to get started, and I am pleased that our government is making this possible."

Other McGuinty government initiatives for young people include:

• The Northern Ontario Youth Internship and Co-op Program – An NOHFC program that helps provide on-the-job training and experience to youth in Northern Ontario. To date, over $8.7 million has been invested to provide placements for 475 young people
• The annual Ontario Secondary School Business Plan Competition – An opportunity for Ontario high school students to develop essential business skills by creating a business plan and competing with their peers throughout the province for awards of up to $2,500
• A pilot project to send post secondary students overseas to experience how international business operates, and to understand why Ontario's role in the global marketplace is critical to our prosperity.

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The NOHFC is an important component of the government's Northern Prosperity Plan for building stronger northern communities. The Northern Prosperity Plan has four pillars: Strengthening the North and its Communities; Listening to and Serving Northerners Better; Competing Globally; and Providing Opportunities for All.

-30-

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